535 the verbunkos). The varied steps are repeated often, but without any particular order, leaving ample room for improvisation.

Besides the dances performed on special occasions (weddings, Midsummer Night), the csárdás is the only common social dance among the peasants. Indeed, its different figure variations may express almost every light-hearted mood. And when the gypsy band strikes up a "jazz" tune imported from the city, the chances are that the majority of the dancers would still use the csárdás steps.

815 Ethnographic and folklore research. The study of ethnography and folklore began, as it did elsewhere, during a period of Romanticism whose doctrine was the return to nature and the awakening of the people to the values and beauties of [814] their native culture. The Kisfaludy Society was the first to encourage the collection of folklore in Hungary, albeit from a literary point of view, and published the folk poetry collections of János Erdélyi (1846) and of László Arany and Pál Gyulai (1872). The Hungarian National Museum started its ethnographic collection, and scholarly work was sporadically undertaken in the 1880's.